<center>REMARKS</center>

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated November 15, 2004. Claims 1 to 17 are now pending in the application, with Claims 12 to 17 having been newly-added. Claims 1, 6, 8, 10 and 17 are the independent claims herein. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

The title was objected to. A new title has been provided for as recited above. Accordingly, withdrawal of the objection to the title is respectfully requested.

2. Claims 1 to 11 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,247,623 (Sun). Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections are respectfully requested.

The present invention concerns control of a printer that receives data over multiple interfaces. According to the invention, a printer has a first interface and a second interface such that, if a device ID request is received from the first interface, a transmitting unit in the printer transmits a device ID to a device connected to the first interface. In addition, when the device ID request is received by the first interface, a printing operation of the printer is controlled so as to cause the printer to become a busy state in which data is not received from the second interface and data is received from first interface and printed. As a result, since the printer becomes busy upon receipt of the device ID request, another device on the network cannot use the printer until the busy state is released.

Referring specifically to the claims, amended independent Claim 1 is a printer, having a first interface and a second interface, comprising determining means for determining whether a device ID request is received from the first interface, transmitting means for transmitting a device ID to a device connected to the first interface when it is determined by the determining means that the device ID request is received from the first

interface; and control means for causing, when it is determined that the device ID request from the first interface is received by the determining means, the printer to become a busy state in which a printing operation is performed such that data from the second interface is not received and data from the first interface is received and printed.

Amended independent Claims 6, 8 and 10 are method, computer program, and storage medium claims, respectively, that substantially correspond to Claim 1.

Newly-added independent Claim 17 includes features along the lines of Claim 1, but is more specifically directed to a printer, having a first interface and a second interface, comprising a determining unit that determines whether a printer status information request is received from the first interface, a transmitting unit that transmits printer status information to a device connected to the first interface when it is determined by the determining unit that the printer status information request is received by first interface, and a control unit for causing, when it is determined by the determining unit that the printer status information request is received by the first interface, the printer to become a busy status, where data from the second interface is not received while data is received from the first interface and printed.

The applied art is not seen to disclose or to suggest the features of Claims 1, 6, 8 10 and 17, and in particular, is not seen to disclose or to suggest at least the feature of transmitting a device ID to a device connected to a first interface of a printer when it is determined that a device ID request is received from the first interface, and causing, when it is determined that the device ID request from the first interface is received, the printer to become a busy state in which a printing operation is performed such that data from a second interface of the printer is not received and data from the first interface is received and printed.

Sun is seen to disclose a system having multiple personal computers (PC's) and printers. In Sun, each PC (1, 2) has an I/O port 10 to which a transmitter circuit (TX1, TX2) is connected, and each printer (3, 4) has an I/O port 11 to which a receiver circuit (RX1, RX2) is connected. Each transmitter circuit (e.g., TX1) includes a first signal interface circuit 24 that communicates with other receiving devices on the network, and each printer has a second signal interface circuit 34 that communicates with other transmitting devices on the network. When one PC begins communication with a printer, the transmitter circuit transmits a printer identification code to the printer. The printer checks the received code with the printer's personal identification code, and if the printer is confirmed as being the printer corresponding to the transmitted identification code, the printer generates a BUSY signal that is transmitted to the interface circuit of other devices.

Thus, in Sun, the transmitting circuit of the personal computer transmits the printer identification code identifying the printer to the printer, whereby, if the printer corresponds to the identification code, it transmits a busy signal and is enabled to receive print data. If the printer does not correspond to the identification code, it does not transmit a busy signal. When the device that transmitted the identification code receives the busy signal, it begins transmitting data to the printer. To summarize the foregoing, a user selects one of the printers and performs an operation to send the print data to that printer, whereby the computer sends an ID of the selected printer out onto the network to establish communication with the printer, and upon receiving the busy signal from the selected printer, transmits data to the printer.

The present invention is clearly in contrast to the foregoing. In more detail, in the present invention, a host computer transmits a request for a device ID to the printer, whereby the printer transmits the device ID to the host computer and becomes busy so that

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data can be received from the interface for which the device ID request was received, but data cannot be received from a second interface. Thus, to summarize the foregoing, the host computer searches for available devices by transmitting the request for a device ID, and upon receiving the device ID from the printer, the user can select the printer (from among multiple printers) and then transmit data the selected printer. Accordingly, Sun functions wholly different from the present invention and is not believed to disclose or to suggest the claimed process of transmitting a device ID to a device connected to a first interface of a printer when it is determined that a device ID request is received from the first interface, and causing, when it is determined that the device ID request from the first interface is received, the printer to become a busy state in which a printing operation is performed such that data from a second interface of the printer is not received and data from the first interface is received and printed.

In view of the foregoing, independent Claims 1, 6, 8, 10 and 17, as well as the claims dependent therefrom, are not believed to be anticipated by Sun.

No other matters having been raised, in view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, the entire application is believed to be in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested at the Examiner's earliest convenience.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, California office at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

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